



December
2019

West Des Moines eNewsletter

Council meetings to move as City Hall construction continues

Phase 3 of the renovation project at City Hall is now underway, and members of the public will need to use the side door to the far left of the main entrance to enter the building now that the main entrance to City Hall is closed.

This phase of the project also means that the Council Chamber will be unavailable for meetings for the next several weeks.

Council meetings on December 2 & 16, and January 6 will be held at 5:30 p.m. in the WDM Community School District Learning Resource Center

which is located at 3550 Mills Civic Parkway (just across the pond from City Hall by the WDM Public Library).



Although the meetings will be recorded and replayed on the City's website, they will not be broadcast live on the website or on the City's municipal cable channel.

The City's Parks & Recreation Department also will move back to their original location on the first floor of City Hall in mid-December.



City Hall and most City offices will be closed for the holidays on Tues. and Wed., Dec. 24 & 25, and Wed., January 1, 2020.

Garbage & recycling will be delayed one day each week after the holidays (Dec. 25 & Jan. 1) with Friday's collection delayed until Saturday.

Have a wonderful holiday!

Connect with us!

www.wdm.iowa.gov





Yard Waste Bags & Stickers

Curbside collection of yard waste through the Compost It! Program goes through Sat., Nov. 30, which gives you a few more days to rake leaves after Thanksgiving. Just follow these simple guidelines:

Bags and Stickers

Compost It! Brand Bags – The cost of the Compost It! brand bag covers the cost of collection. No sticker is required. Cost: \$8.00 (+ tax) for a bundle of five bags.

Store-Brand Bag + Compost It! Sticker –

A Compost It! sticker must be attached to a generic or store-brand bag. The sticker cost covers the collection. Cost: \$1.25 per sticker (+ tax) plus the cost of the generic bag.

Compost It! Sticker + Brush Bundles – Attach a Compost It! sticker to each brush bundle. Bundles cannot exceed 18 inches in diameter or four feet in length. Cost: \$1.25 per sticker (+ tax).

Coming soon ... Winter Collection!



For two weeks only you can have your natural “live” Christmas tree picked up at your curb for the cost of a \$1.00 Compost It! sticker.

December 30, 2019 – January 10, 2020

Just remember, the sticker is the only decoration your tree can have. Please make sure all ornaments, lights and wires have been removed. Wreaths and garlands are not accepted.

If Iowa weather continues to be unpredictable, you might find yourself with leftover yard waste, too. During winter collection, leaves, lawn clippings or garden vegetation can also be collected (in addition to live Christmas trees).

For collection, place your tree or yard waste at the

curb before 7:00 a.m. on your regular collection day. Be sure to leave at least three feet between carts and yard waste. Compost It! bags and stickers are available at City Hall as well as many area grocery and hardware stores.

For more information, visit Metro Waste Authority at www.WhereItShouldGo.com or call them at (515) 244-0021.



Residents who use Premium Yard Waste carts may use them during Winter Collection!

How does the City decide when to put a Parking Ban in place?



It's not an easy decision for us since we all know weather forecasting is not an exact science.

We rely on a contracted weather service provider that gives us hour-by-hour forecasting data for West Des Moines.

The City always tries to be pro-active in our response to pending winter weather, but please know there will be times when Mother Nature changes her mind with little or no warning!

Why can't I park on the street when it snows?

Yes, **Parking Bans** can feel like a nuisance at times, but they are a necessity if we want to clear the streets of snow. If cars are parked in the street:

- * The plows are slowed down – and everyone would like our streets cleaned as soon as possible!
- * Vehicles parked in the street are at risk of being hit by a plow trying to maneuver around them.
- * Plows aren't able to clean the street curb-to-curb.
- * Snow and ice that can't be cleaned off can quickly harden and remain until the temperature breaks long enough for it to melt.
- * \$50 fine and/or a tow – that's the reality if a vehicle is parked in the street during a Parking Ban.



Be proactive! When snow is in the forecast, park your vehicle off the street.



How do I know if a Snow Parking Ban is in effect?

* Call the Snow Hotline at **273-0766** or check the City's website at www.wdm.iowa.gov. Both are available 24/7.

* Sign up for email & text message alerts!

- ➔ Sign up for e-mails at www.wdm.iowa.gov/eNotification.
- ➔ To sign up for snow parking ban **text messages**, click on the red link on the eNotification page to visit a separate sign-up page. Click SNOW EMERGENCY under the News Category.



During a Parking Ban, vehicles must be removed from all City streets, alleys and City-owned parking areas.

Parking bans are usually in effect from their proclamation through 5 p.m. the following day, unless extended due to the length of the storm or a large volume of snowfall.

New group formed to support public parks in WDM

A new group – **Friends of West Des Moines Parks and Recreation** – has been launched to support the development and enhancement of public parks, facilities and recreation programs in West Des Moines.

The nonprofit organization is a successor to the WestParks Foundation and has thirteen volunteer board members.

Parks & Recreation Director Sally Ortgies said the City is excited to welcome the support that Friends of West Des Moines Parks and Recreation will offer.

"We're looking forward to utilizing their energy in the promotion and implementation of the Five Waters Project, particularly the future Raccoon River Pedestrian Bridge which will connect Raccoon River Park and Walnut Woods State Park," Ortgies said.

The Friends have chosen to focus on the Raccoon River Pedestrian Bridge as their first fundraising project. Every dollar raised through private donations will be matched by the City of

West Des Moines with Local Option Sales and Services Tax (LOSST) revenue.

"We invite parks and recreation enthusiasts to be a part of the exciting plans to expand outdoor recreation opportunities in our city by becoming a member of Friends of West Des Moines Parks and Recreation," said Eric Tabor, president of the Friends board.

The Friends will kick off their inaugural membership drive during December beginning with a special appearance at

the Valley Junction Activity Center, 217 5th Street, West Des Moines during ***Jingle in the Junction*** on **Thursday, Dec. 5, from 5 to 9 p.m.**

To become a member or make a donation to the Raccoon River Pedestrian Bridge project, visit the Friends website at www.wdm.iowa.gov/FriendsofWDMPR.

For more information about Five Waters, visit www.wdm.iowa.gov/FiveWaters.



Got batteries? We thought so!

In the era of gadgets and technology, almost everything we use has a battery. Cell phones, laptops, tablets, game consoles, power tools, cameras and more!

Not all batteries are the same, so knowing how to dispose of each type is important for your safety and the safety of those around you.

Rechargeable/Lithium

Did you know rechargeable batteries contain hazardous material that is highly flammable? That's right! When the shell is cracked on these types of batteries, they are susceptible to moisture and can easily start on fire. We're not sure if you've seen the heavy equipment that collects and moves garbage, but those shells are sure to crack under the pressure!

To know if one of your devices has a hazardous battery, first ask yourself if the item can be recharged. Common gadgets that have hazardous

batteries are cell phones, laptops, cameras, power tools, etc.

So...Watt do you do with them?!

Drop-off your rechargeable



batteries at one of MWA's hazardous waste drop-offs in Grimes or Bondurant. It's free of charge. Traditional alkaline (single use) batteries can be recycled for \$1 per pound at the Metro Hazardous Waste Drop-Off or thrown in your garbage. You can also keep an eye out for stores that offer take-back programs.

To learn more about where it should go, visit WhereItShouldGo.com or give Metro Waste Authority a call at (515) 244-0021.



Facts about home holiday fires:

- ◆ One of every four home Christmas tree fires is caused by electrical problems.
- ◆ Although Christmas tree fires are not common, they are more likely to be serious.
- ◆ The top 3 days for home candle fires are Christmas, New Year's Day & Christmas Eve.
- ◆ Candles start 2 out of 5 home decoration structure fires.

Dowling student designs memorial for fallen WDM Police officers



Last October, the West Des Moines Police Department unveiled a new memorial to fallen West Des Moines officers.

The memorial was designed by Dowling Catholic High School student Jim Clark, a senior who worked on the memorial as part of his Eagle Scout service project.

Clark raised the funds for the memorial and was present at the unveiling ceremony. WDM Police Chief Chris Scott had an opportunity to shake Jim's hand and congratulate him for his efforts to honor WDM's fallen officers (see photo, top left).

The public can view the memorial at the Police Station, 250 Mills Civic Parkway.

Solid Waste Event for WDM Residents

➡ Dec. 30, 2019 – Jan. 10, 2020 Winter Yard Waste & Christmas Tree Collection!

Holiday Giving Opportunities

Bring joy to someone's life this holiday season by helping a family in need through the West Des Moines Human Services **Holiday Assistance Program**. The City's Human Services Department provides necessary assistance to low-income, elderly and disabled individuals in their service area. Many of the households they serve are surviving on limited incomes and struggle to afford even the most basic necessities. Some are faced with hardships that make it difficult to feel the joy of the holiday season.

YOU can make a difference! Please consider providing assistance in any of the following ways:

ADOPT-A-FAMILY for the holidays by providing gifts for the children in the household. Your gifts may be delivered directly to the family or you may deliver them to West Des Moines Human Services.

Make a **MONETARY DONATION** to assist the department in helping those in need during the holiday season and throughout the year.

Provide **NEW UNWRAPPED TOYS OR GIFT CARDS** for kids (newborn through 18 years of age) to support our annual Giftland program, formerly known as Toyland, that is available to low-income families who are not sponsored through the Adopt-A-Family program.

Provide a **GROCERY GIFT CARD** to assist a low-income family.

To learn more, email [Mindy Hotovec](#), call 222-3663 or [visit our website for more information](#).



Tips for setting out carts in the winter

- ◆ Clear out a place for your cart when you shovel snow from your driveway.
- ◆ Leave 18 inches around your cart to allow room for the truck's arm.
- ◆ Don't place carts on snow piles because it's easy for them to tip over and litter your street. It also makes it difficult for the truck driver to set down your cart.
- ◆ Don't put carts in the street because they are a hazard for vehicles and they could be destroyed by snow plows.

